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and this substance is formed most probably when the plague bacilli disintegrate.

Plague bacilli produce, besides the immunizing substance, a proteid which produces pus, and this proteid is found in the bodies of the dead bacilli. I have found that the induration at the seat of the inoculation occurs whenever the Haffkine's fluid is used, especially when it is used subcutaneously, or whenever the sediment on the bougie is used; whereas these indurations never occur when the filtrate of Haffkine's fluid or extracellular or immunizing substance is used.

I have found that these indurations generally contain sterile pus. From this it is clear that the pus-producing substance is in the dead bacilli. This fact also coincides with the clinical facts observed by many.

(1) Suppuration never occurs in severe cases of plague, but only in mild cases or in those cases in which the duration of the disease is long—that is, when plague bacilli are dying or disintegrating. Of course it must not be forgotten that suppuration occurs in cases of mixed infection in which plague germs enter the system with pyogenic cocci.

(2) It is known that it is impossible to get a culture of plague bacilli or even to find plague bacilli in buboes when suppuration has advanced. This, however, can be explained in two ways—

(a) The plague bacilli are dead or disintegrating.

(b) In cases of mixed infection pyogenic cocci might overgrow or outlive plague bacilli; but I have found from experiments that pyogenic cocci have no deleterious influence on plague bacilli, and also that they have no prophylactic power whatever against plague, as rabbits previously inoculated with pyogenic cocci invariably die of plague when subsequently inoculated with it.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Disinfection of baggage on steamship Alameda from Sydney, Australia, at San Francisco, Cal.

SAN FRANCISCO QUARANTINE STATION,
Angel Island, Cal., May 8, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to report the arrival of the steamship *Alameda* from Sydney via Auckland with 96 cabin passengers and 64 steerage passengers on board. The bill of health given by the United States consul at Sydney stated that up to and including April 11 there were 82 cases of plague with 26 deaths. Information has also reached me through the public press that the disease has appeared at Brisbane and Adelaide and rats dead with plague were found on the docks at Auckland. The baggage of passengers from Sydney and Auckland was disinfected. * * *

I would state further, for the information of the Bureau, that so far Sydney has made no provisions for disinfection of vessels, there being no quarantine station.

Respectfully,

J. J. KINYOUN,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.